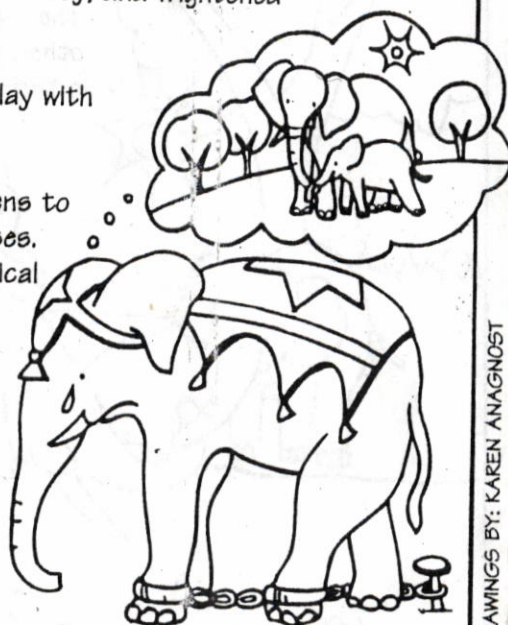


**W**ould  
you feel sad if:

- someone took you away from your family?
- someone put chains on your legs?
- you were hungry, thirsty, and frightened most of the time?
- you could never play with your friends?

This is what happens to elephants in circuses. People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals is trying to help the elephants. You can help, too.



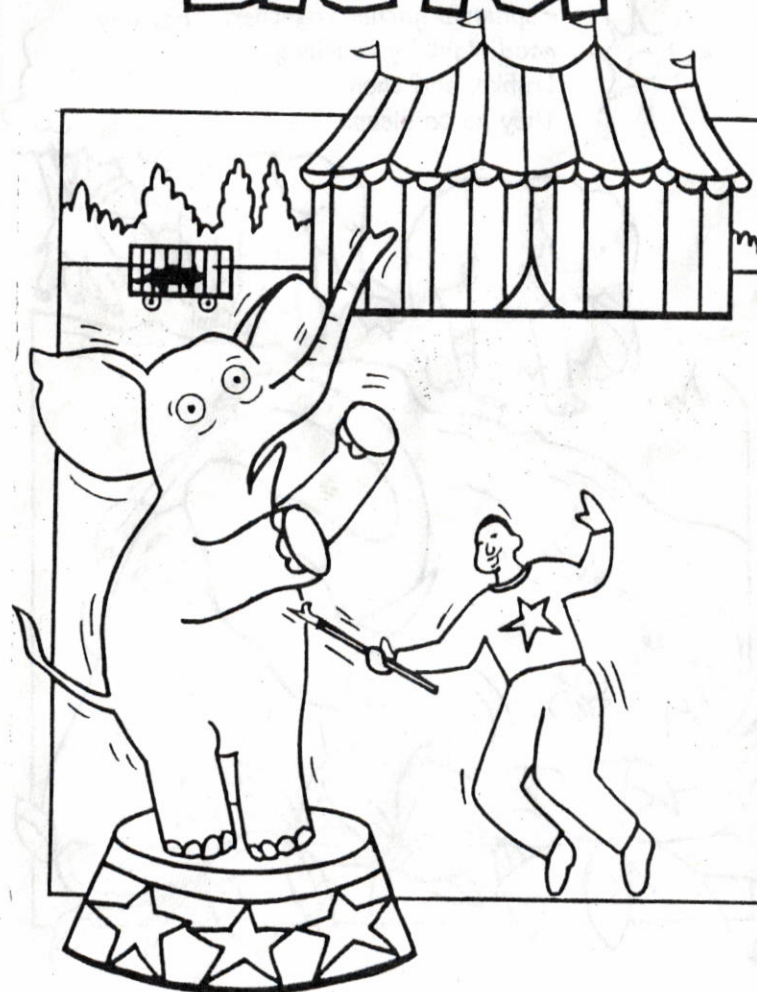
DRAWINGS BY: KAREN ANAGNOST

To find out how, write to:

**PETA**

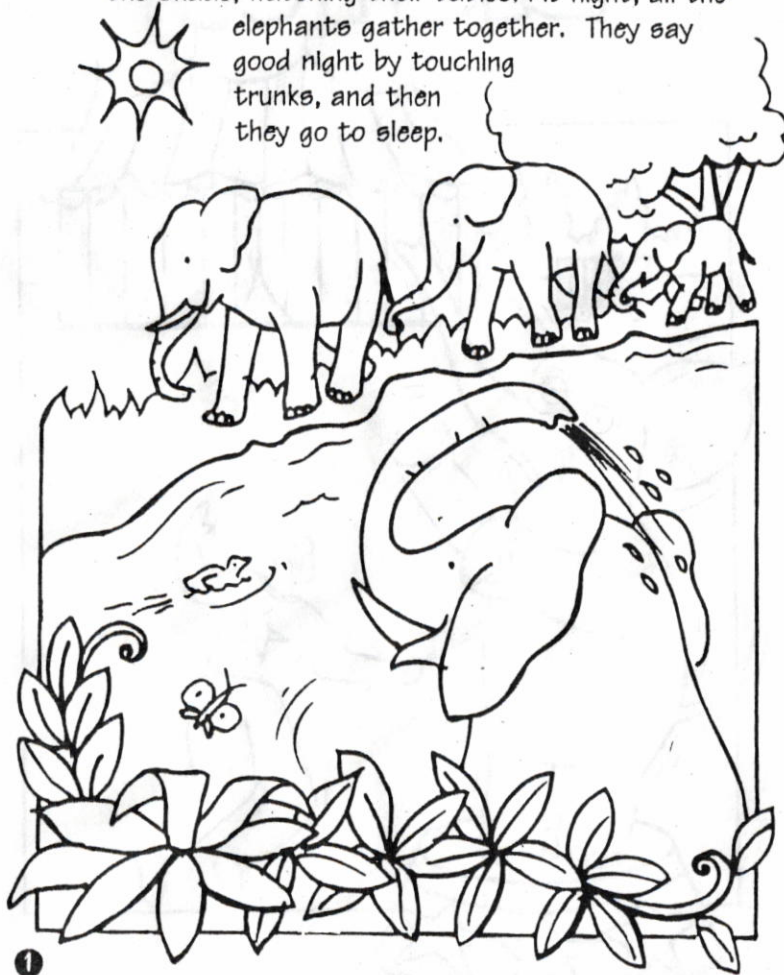
501 Front St.  
Norfolk, VA 23510  
757-622-7382  
[www.peta-online.org](http://www.peta-online.org)

# ELEPHANTS UNDER THE BIG TOP



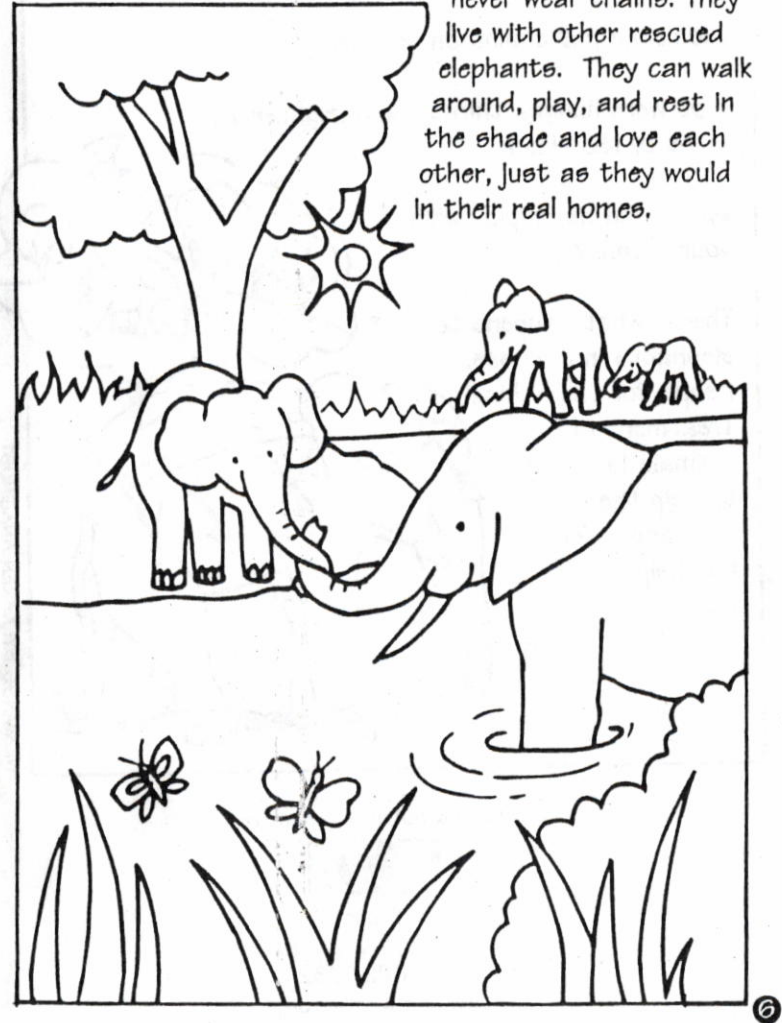
**I**n the faraway lands of Africa and Asia, elephants live happily in large families. They walk as far as 20 miles every day because they need lots of exercise and fresh food. When the sun is hot, they cool themselves in watering holes. The young elephants splash and play in the water. Their mothers and aunts rest in the shade, watching their babies. At night, all the

elephants gather together. They say good night by touching trunks, and then they go to sleep.



**M**any children believe it is wrong to make elephants work in circuses. They don't go to circuses that use elephants, and they ask their friends not to go either. They don't want to see sad elephants. Some grownups are working to send circus elephants to sanctuaries. A sanctuary is a safe place owned by kind people. In sanctuaries, elephants

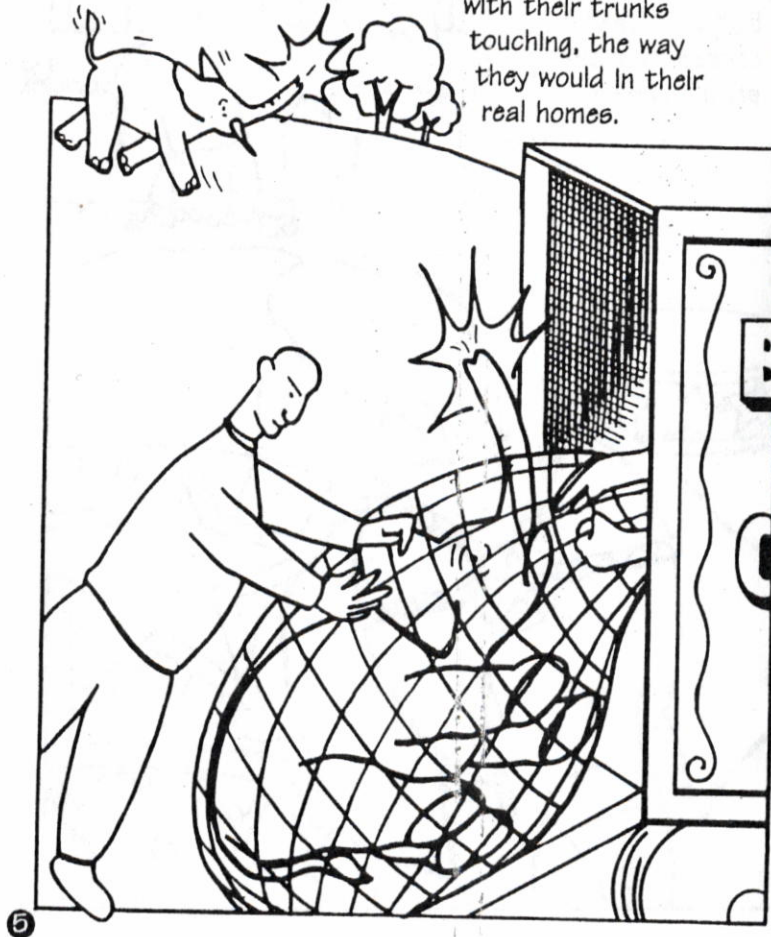
never wear chains. They live with other rescued elephants. They can walk around, play, and rest in the shade and love each other, just as they would in their real homes.





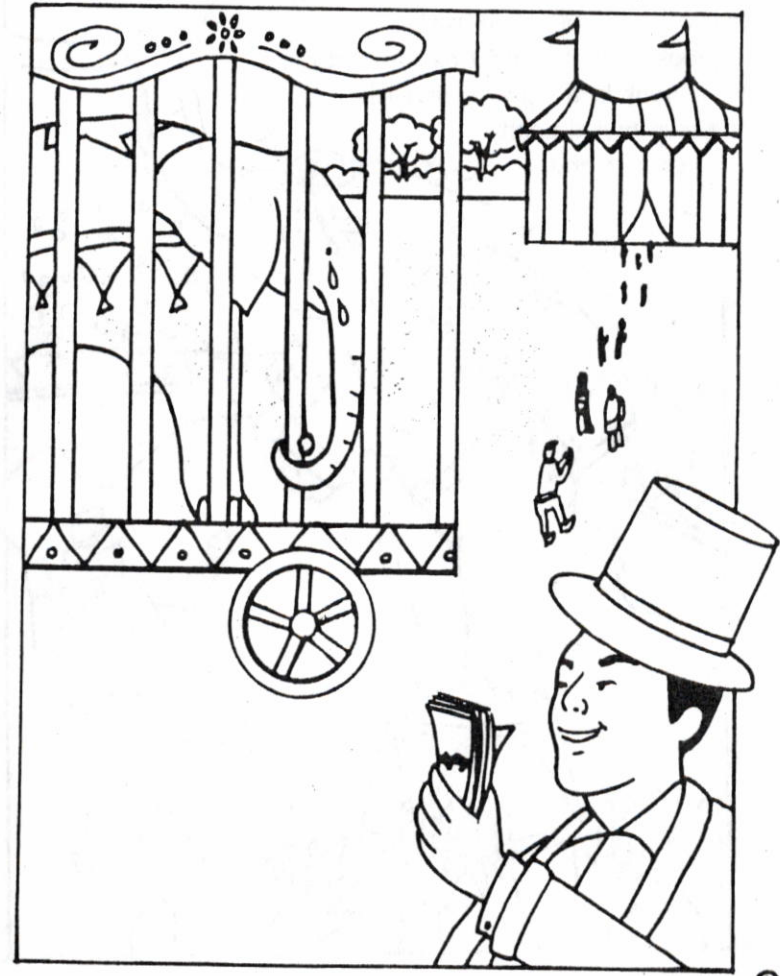
**M**ost of all, the elephants miss their families. Most elephants in circuses were taken away from their mothers and aunts when they were babies. These elephants cry, just like people, because they are lonely. They make friends with the other elephants in the circus, but the chains keep them apart. They can't comfort each other by being close together when they are frightened or lonely. They can't gather in a circle

with their trunks touching, the way they would in their real homes.



5

**I**n the United States, many elephants are prisoners in circuses. Some were stolen from their families in Africa and Asia. Some were born in the circus or in a zoo that took them away from their mothers and sold them to the circus.



2

**L**ife is very hard for elephants in circuses. If they don't do their tricks, their trainers may whip them or hurt them with a hooked stick. The elephants dance or stand on their back legs because they are forced to do so and they are afraid. The shouts from the crowds of people in the circus tents can scare elephants, too. When curious elephants look away from their trainers to see who is in the audience, their trainers may hit them with a bullhook to make them pay attention. A bullhook is a big weapon with a sharp metal point on one end.



**E**ven when the elephants aren't doing tricks, they aren't allowed to play or exercise. Heavy chains are locked around one front leg and one back leg. Their feet are very sore from standing still on hard cement for hours every day. They must travel by train from city to city in dark, hot boxcars. They want to swim and lie in the shade. They want to pull fresh, green leaves from the trees to eat. But they can't escape from the strong chains.

